

REMARKS

In reply to the Final Office Action of February 9, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 7, 10, 12, 32, 35, 37, and 52 recite allowable subject matter and that claims 50 and 53 are allowed.

Claims 1-53 are pending with claims 1, 26, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 53 being independent. Claims 49 and 51 have been amended.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-31, 33, 34, 36, 38-49, and 51 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,298,449 (Carter) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,977 (Fowler). This rejection is discussed below with respect to each grouping of claims.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, and 13-25:

Independent claim 1 relates to an intelligent electronic device connected to interact with a power system. The device includes a processor and memory storing software instructions performed by the processor for receiving electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link and for automatically transmitting electronic mail to the remote system through the communication link. The device includes a power system interface circuit for communicating with the power system. The processor is coupled to the power system interface circuit.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 because neither Carter, Fowler, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests an intelligent electronic device having a processor that both receives electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link and automatically transmits electronic mail to the remote system through the communication link.

The Examiner argues that "Carter teaches of a system that can receive SNMP messages" and "Fowler also goes on to disclose that the system can work over the MIME protocol" to somehow show a processor that both receives electronic mail from a remote system and transmits electronic mail to the remote system through a communication link. In Carter,

however, the computer 12 merely transmits an alarm message in the form of an SNMP message. See Carter at col. 4, lines 45-51. Carter's computer 12 does not also receive an alarm message in the form of an SNMP message or in the form of an electronic mail. The only device in Carter that receives this alarm message is the LAN 18. See Carter at col. 4, lines 45-51. However, Carter's LAN 18 does not also transmit an electronic mail back to the computer 12 (along the communication link over which the alarm message was received). Thus, Carter fails to describe or suggest a device having a processor that both receives and transmits electronic mail through a communication link.

The Examiner points to Fowler to show that SNMP messages can be converted into email messages. However, even if one were to use Fowler's conversion system in Carter's computer 12, the combination would still fail to describe or suggest that Carter's computer 12 both receives and transmits electronic mail or that Carter's LAN both receives and transmits electronic mail through a communication link.

For at least these additional reasons, any proper combination of Carter and Fowler would still fail to describe or suggest an intelligent electronic device having a processor that both receives electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link and automatically transmits electronic mail to the remote system through the communication link. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Carter in view of Fowler.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, and 13-24 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed in the Reply dated November 22, 2004.

Claim 25 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable and for containing allowable subject matter in its own right. In particular, neither Carter nor Fowler describes or suggests a processor that receives instant messages from a remote system through a communication link through which instant messages are also transmitted. The Examiner points to col. 3, lines 28-32 of Fowler and states that reporting through a Web page, email, pager, or a telephone somehow constitute forms of instant messages. Applicant requests that the Examiner provide support for this assertion. Additionally, applicant provides copies of two definitions of "instant messaging," which were found at webopedia.com and whatis.com.

Applicant notes that neither of these definitions indicates that a Web page, email, pager, or a telephone constitute forms of instant messages or instant messaging. To the contrary, the definitions distinguish instant messages and instant messaging from email, telephone, simple Web based access, and paging.

Claims 26-31, 33, 34, 36, and 38-47:

Independent claim 26 relates to an apparatus for interacting with a power system. The apparatus includes an intelligent electronic device connected to the power system and a system remote from the intelligent electronic device and connected to the intelligent electronic device through a communication link. The intelligent electronic device includes a processor and memory storing software instructions performed by the processor for receiving electronic mail from the remote system through the communication link and for transmitting electronic mail to the remote system through the communication link. The intelligent electronic device also includes a power system interface circuit in communication with the power system.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26 because, as discussed above with respect to claim 1 and as discussed in the Reply dated November 22, 2004, neither Carter, Fowler, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests an intelligent electronic device having a processor that both receives electronic mail from a remote system and transmits electronic mail to the remote system through a communication link. For this reason, claim 26 is allowable over any proper combination of Carter and Fowler.

Claims 27-31, 33, 34, 36, and 38-47 depend from claim 26 and are allowable for the reasons discussed in the Reply dated November 22, 2004.

Claim 48:

Independent claim 48 relates to an intelligent electronic device connected to interact with a power system. The device includes a processor and memory storing software instructions performed by the processor for receiving an instant message from a remote system through a communication link and for automatically transmitting an instant message to the remote system

through the communication link. The device also includes a power system interface circuit for communicating with the power system. The processor is coupled to the power system interface circuit.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 48 because, as discussed above with respect to claim 25 and as discussed in the Reply dated November 22, 2004, neither Carter, Fowler, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests an intelligent electronic device having a processor that receives an instant message from a remote system through a communication link.

Claim 49:

Independent claim 49 relates to an intelligent electronic device connected to interact with a power system. The device includes a processor and memory storing software instructions performed by the processor for receiving electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link. The device also includes a power system interface circuit for communicating with power system components used for the distribution or dissemination of electric power in the power system. The processor is coupled to the power system interface circuit.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 49 because, as discussed in the reply dated November 22, 2004, neither Carter, Fowler, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests a device having a power system interface circuit for communicating with power system components used for the distribution or dissemination of electric power in a power system and having a processor that receives electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link. For this reason, claim 49 is allowable over any proper combination of Carter and Fowler.

Claim 51:

Independent claim 51 relates to a computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by an intelligent electronic device. The computer program

includes a first code segment to receive input from power system components used for the distribution or dissemination of electric power in the power system. The input relates to operation of the power system. The computer program includes a second code segment to send output to the power system to operate a fault protection device when input received from the power system indicates a fault event in the power system, and a third code segment to receive electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 51 because, as discussed in the reply dated November 22, 2004, neither Carter, Fowler, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests receipt of input from power system components used for the distribution or dissemination of electric power in a power system and receipt of electronic mail from a remote system through a communication link. For this reason, claim 51 is allowable over any proper combination of Carter and Fowler.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2005

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Abbreviated *IM*, a type of communications

service that enables you to create a kind of private chat room with another individual in order to communicate in real time over the Internet, analagous to a telephone conversation but using text-based, not voice-based, communication. Typically, the instant messaging system alerts you whenever somebody on your private list is online. You can then initiate a chat session with that particular individual.

See the page of text messaging abbreviations in the Quick Reference section of Webopedia.

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See also [IRC](#) (Internet Relay Chat) and [ICQ](#) (I Seek You).

Instant messaging (sometimes called IM or IMing) is the ability to easily see whether a chosen friend or co-worker is connected to the Internet and, if they are, to exchange messages with them. Instant messaging differs from ordinary e-mail in the immediacy of the message exchange and also makes a continued exchange simpler than sending e-mail back and forth. Most exchanges are text-only. However, some services, such as AOL, allow voice messaging and file sharing.

In order for IMing to work, both users (who must subscribe to the service) must be online at the same time, and the intended recipient must be willing to accept instant messages. (It is possible to set your software to reject messages.) An attempt to send an IM to someone who is not online, or who is not willing to accept IMs, will result in notification that the transmission cannot be completed. If the online software is set to accept IMs, it alerts the recipient with a distinctive sound, a window that indicates that an IM has arrived and allowing the recipient to accept or reject it, or a window containing the incoming message.

Under most conditions, IMing is truly "instant." Even during peak Internet usage periods, the delay is rarely more than a second or two. It is possible for two people to have a real-time online "conversation" by IMing each other back and forth.

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Once in a while, a person might receive an IM from someone while already engaged in a chat with someone else, and decide to carry on IM chats with both people independently and concurrently. This requires mental alertness to avoid the embarrassment of sending one IM companion a message intended for the other.

Read more about it:

- >> [AOL has an Instant Messenger Web page where you can sign up and download the software.](#)
- >> [Jabber.org provides more about Jabber instant messaging.](#)

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